

CITY OF REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION

MINUTES

November 18, 2004

Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center

“Voice the views of the community to Mayor and City Council in reference to all cultural endeavors”

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Phil Teller, Vice Chair Kay Tarapolsi, Jill Schmidt, Latha Sambamurti, Roy Leban, Katie Innes, Yvette Waters; youth advocate Julia Marino

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Heidi Houghton; youth advocate Nicole Rollofson

STAFF PRESENT: Melna Skillingstead, Arts Administrator; Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Program Manager; Pam Maybee, Recording Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT: Mayor Rosemarie Ives; Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director; Bill Ayers

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AGENDA

Note: Bold/italic text denotes Staff and Commissioner follow-up resulting from this meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Phil Teller called to order the regular meeting of the Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center (ORSCC).

II. GUESTS

Mayor Rosemarie Ives addressed the limited resources for RAC. She explained the budget dilemmas within the City: increased expenses and decreased revenues relative to expenses. City Council can only aid RAC if Council raises new money; they cannot take money away from other endeavors. Mayor Ives felt this budget approval was a “crossroads,” stating she would be asking for Council approval of \$11/household additional property taxes in order to maintain the City’s financial status quo. Should that tax increase be granted, Skillingstead’s salary could be paid out of the General Fund.

Schmidt clarified that the Commission's frustrations of financial lack motivated them to make the need known. Also, they needed to advise that some programs may be dropped if money was not available.

Mayor Ives explained Redmond is no longer a "bedroom community"; rather, an "employment center," and that infrastructure is expensive. Tarapolsi believed that City Council needed to know RAC's endeavors; this was also a main reason Commissioners explained their needs to Council.

Schmidt gave the Mayor drafts of the RAC handbook and Project Plans 2005, as well as the ROS brochure. Mayor Ives asked to see the RAC Annual Report in *Focus* magazine. She noted RAC has a lot to be proud of in its contribution to the City, the eastside, and being a direct and/or indirect support to other arts commissions in the area.

Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director, supported the Mayor's comments. He expressed a positive and hopeful view regarding the budget, noting Redmond, out of 39 cities, is one of the top 1-3 cities whose financial situation is better than most. Parks Department is dealing with a 3% reduction issue, but there still would be challenging times ahead in the long term solutions, e.g., revenue streams not protected against inflation. He spoke to the heart and commitment of a volunteer in city endeavors, and that they can feel stress during tight economic times. He relayed high respect from the community for RAC, and emphasized that staff has made the commitment to make the Commission as effective as it can be, as long as the resources are there.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) minutes of October 14, 2004 were approved with the following amendments:

- Page 2, V.A.1., first sub-bullet: Add, "So Commissioners can spend more time on topics"
- Page 2, V.A.1., second sub-bullet: Add, "Hold team-building retreat..."
- Page 2, V.A.1., last sub-bullet: Add, "...other three topics discussed by the Mayor..." (delete "suggested")

Motion for approval of the RAC minutes of October 14, 2004 as amended by:

Commissioner Tarapolsi

Second by: Commissioner Schmidt

Motion carried: 7-0 unanimous

IV. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

General RAC Business:

- Draft proposal of RAC Handbook and Project Plans 2005 – Schmidt

Visual Arts:

- ROS: Staff Report – Skillingstead

V. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

VI. GENERAL RAC BUSINESS

A. Chair/Vice Chair

Chair Teller posed thoughts for consideration regarding the current open Commissioner position and offered the follow suggestions to create/evaluate a better “hiring” process:

- Ask pointed questions to see how candidates respond
- Decide what characteristics/traits/points RAC wants before the interview
- Decide what kind of person the Commission wants in the “family”

Schmidt suggested Commissioners could email their suggested questions in order to create a base from which to build. Teller proposed all jot down what they want in the Commissioner role. Bettencourt explained that often times volunteerism is so much like “work.” She suggested discussion around becoming more balanced between an advisory role and a working role. She asked whether or not the advertisement for the position attracted more work-oriented people. Commissioners need to be clear about expectations as a Commissioner; ask where they see themselves growing.

Schmidt asked whether nine Commissioners were enough if the Commission wanted to do more work. Teller proposed consideration of a three to five year plan. In light of budgetary constraints, consider RAC as an advisory board, bringing in others to do the work. Commissioners should be thinking about what kind of Commissioner would fit the profile of RAC and its goals.

B. 2005-06 \$1.25 Per Capita Funding Allocation—December

Postponed to December.

C. Draft proposal of RAC Handbook and Project Plans 2005

Schmidt presented drafts of the RAC handbook and Project Plans 2005, which portray an idea of an organized handbook to make it easier to get others up to speed. A glossary

would be included. Projects would be described in the committee files as an addendum. Schmidt noted it is a sample and a work in progress.

Skillingstead will include on December's agenda an update by Schmidt of the drafts. Teller requested all Commissioners read the drafts and comment to Schmidt. Commissioners will review the drafts and email their suggestion/additions/comments to Schmidt.

VII. VISUAL ARTS

A. Arts Award Proposal

Bill Ayers, artist, showed a sample drawing of a tapered curved piece, as well as the type of texture and thickness that would be used in his Arts Award piece. The piece could be wall mounted or placed in an acrylic stand. He showed a brass plate containing the award information that could be glued onto a separate fused glass textured piece.

Commissioners' comments:

- Leban did not support having the information on a separate piece. He suggested integrating metal with the award information subtly into the piece.
- Tarapolsi agreed and suggested a discreet placement within or on the piece. She emphasized the sculpture is for RAC to give an award, not an art piece.
- Innes liked the award information as separate, distinguished from the beautiful art piece.
- Waters agreed with integration without sacrificing the aesthetics, where form and function could come together.

Ayers stated he would prefer a separate informational piece, but would be flexible to do what the Commission wanted. He offered three ways to incorporate the information: (1) etch it into the piece, (2) incorporate metal in the piece, or (3) attach it on the outside.

Skillingstead will put on the December agenda to discuss and vote on Ayer's proposal.

B. New Business: VA Commission Leadership

Leban is the new Visual Arts Committee co-chair. Houghton will not continue to co-chair. She is working on the grants and the handbook.

Next Visual Arts Committee meeting: Monday, 11/22/04, 7:00 p.m., ORSCC. Meetings will typically be the fourth Monday of the month.

Leban would send a statement for posting to Skillingstead regarding a request for volunteers. Skillingstead will contact a potential volunteer she knows who may be interested in serving on the committee.

C. Redmond Outdoor Sculpture

Skillingstead reported that \$5,000 was requested through the Tourism Grant. Bettencourt announced the money was approved, primarily for marketing for ROS.

Skillingstead contacted Redmond Town Center and they agreed to extend the ROS exhibit time period through September. Consideration is being made to reformat the schedule for the overall program. A letter would be sent to the artists to see who can keep their art in until September.

Skillingstead spoke with Steve Gerke, Issaquah Arts Commission, to get more information regarding a consultant for an art curator. A draft will be created to gather information regarding the cost to hire a curator, etc. Bettencourt noted that staff would work with the Finance Department in that process. A draft of the RFP would be reviewed by the Visual Arts Committee before it goes out.

D. Emailed Visual Arts Committee Meeting Report – October 25, 2004 – by Commissioner Houghton

Attendance: Roy Leban, Heidi Houghton, Jill Schmidt, Katie Innes

Guests: Blue McRight and Warren Wagner

1. Ms. McRight and her husband asked for ideas, parameters, information that the committee could give to help them come up with an idea. They are keeping their ideas to themselves right now, which is probably wise. They are thinking of using water as a theme because of the rain, the Sammamish River and the aquifer; they would probably not be using light because there is just not a big enough budget for a photovoltaic cell. If they get opposition to any ideas, the committee requested to be informed, as they may be able to help them.

The Visual Arts Committee desires to be better informed as to what 4Culture is doing for Redmond via notification of and invitations to meetings, minutes from meetings, general progress reports.

2. ENSO Center is having their second Annual Art Exhibit November 5-7.
3. Firemen's Bench Dedication went very well. In attendance were three council members, Holly Plackett, Andy Hale, some firemen from the station, some public, Michele Van Slyke (the artist), Cara Byrne, and the Redmond Rotary. No media were present even though Skillingstead sent out a press release. The only glitch was that the

coverings on the bench leached dye on the wood seating. Leban wondered why the City required Larch wood for the seating in the bench, believing there were better materials. He suggested investing in some non-leaching materials.

4. Heritage Art Contest: Tarapolsi is helping them out.
5. Sculpture Sites: Leban has worked hard coming up with sites for Fibonacci and Andrew Carson.
 - Fibonacci: at the entrance to ORSCC.
 - Andrew Carson (8 spots were reduced to 3): in front of Anderson Park, a spot in Luke's landing, and Idylwood (2 spots). Leban has sent out more info in an e-mail. Follow-up will be to obtain City staff approval on the locations, then work with Carson on location and price. RAC would then need to approve it.
6. City Hall & Dove Lady: Houghton met with Wright Runstad and Mulvaney G2 about the City Hall art. Houghton has sent out a separate report.
7. ROS: Nothing to report at this time.
8. Catalog: Leban thinks he can have it done by the end of the year. The committee agreed there was no rush. A photo party will be held November 15, 6:00 p.m., at Houghton's house. Members will go through the box of photos to choose the ones for the catalog, for publicity uses, and to send photos of all the City Hall art to Wright Runstad and Mulvaney G2.
9. ORSCC Gallery: Skillingstead and Arriba Stature both felt that there was no need for a new gallery name. However, the VA committee does want a new name and is continuing to work on it. Ms. Stature does not want a misleading name. Schmidt pointed out that any name would still have ORSCC after it, so the potential artist would know that it is at a community center. Possibly the rest of the Arts Commission's opinion would be needed.
10. Houghton is stepping down as co-chair of Visual Arts committee to focus more on the handbook, orientation, interview and project plan list that hopefully is still needed by RAC. Leban expressed an interest and was selected by the VA committee present to be the co-chair of the Visual Arts Committee.

VIII. ARTS EDUCATION/GRANTS

A. Funding: Arts Education Grant Recommendation—December

Deferred to December meeting. Skillingstead reported that a commitment of a grant could not be made until the budget outcome was known. *She will contact SecondStory Repertory to let them know the decision is pending.*

B. Diversity Workshop Update

Postponed (Houghton not present)

C. New Business

None

D. Youth Advocate Report

Marino shared that she has art-related ideas she would like to do in the community beyond the high school art endeavors. An example would be a column in the *Redmond Reporter* for youth art in the community. She desires more youth representation in the community. She offered to coordinate volunteers, create proposals, etc. *Marino will contact Skillingstead for direction.*

Teller encouraged support from RAC for Marino's ideas. He would like to support her individual ideas, for example, the column in the *Reporter*, within guidelines of the City. Schmidt noted the Mayor wants (1) the youth point of view, (2) to give youth a sense of government by there being an advocate on all Commissions, and (3) interaction between boards and youth. There are no other restrictions by the City (except it is a non-voting position).

Tarapolsi encouraged Marino to attend the Visual Arts Committee meeting and bring her ideas, since that is her area of interest. Teller suggested she email Skillingstead if she would like to be on the RAC meeting agenda. Marino shared one of her project ideas was to study different ethnicities in the community for her paintings of facial structures and figures. *She will come to the next Visual Arts Committee meeting with her proposal.*

Marino reiterated she desires to create avenues for youth artist representation, and she offered to take the initiative. Bettencourt highly commended her. She noted the examples of what a youth advocate could be was lacking in the orientation manual. Staff and Commissioners offered these ideas to Marino:

- Contact Redmond Youth Partnership, now a City of Redmond program, who is interviewing to include youth in their projects.
- Contact Houghton who is working on the Senior/Teen Art exhibit in 2005.
- Initiate youth involvement in City events such as Derby Days.

- Let the high school know that there are adults willing to be in the position of adult field sponsor for a student who must meet the high school project requirement.
Marino will talk with Schmidt.

E. Emailed Arts Education Committee Meeting Report

None

IX. PERFORMING/LITERARY ARTS

A. Project Status: *Write Out Loud!* Sponsorship 2005 Recommendation—December

Postponed to December.

B. Literary Arts

Waters reported she met with Jamie Strauss-Clark on expanding the ArtQuest section of *Focus* magazine. They are looking for “meatier” literary art contributions, e.g., essays, short prose, etc. *Waters will meet again in January with Strauss-Clark to plan for the next Focus.* Tarapolsi suggested Waters choose an artist from the ROS for a *Focus* article.

Waters reported she has met with Laura Lee Bennett (RASP); *Waters will bring an update to the next RAC meeting.* Waters also met with past Commissioner Rebecca LaBrunerie to discuss history and ideas of the Literary Arts Committee.

It was noted that more committee members were needed.

C. Marketing: Winter Performance Series

Sambamurti reported the following:

- Artist contracts have been sent out.
- 12,000 fliers will be distributed after the holidays.
- Ads were published in the latest *Focus* and winter *Recreation Guide*.
- Publicity work (specialized marketing) will begin in early January (i.e., ads on web sites, fliers for each event, news ads, etc.).

Sambamurti also reported on her attendance at the Northwest Booking Conference, which was very beneficial. She met several artists from the area and other states.

D. New Business

Innes reported the Dillon Exhibit opened at the Experience Music Project, Seattle. She will be available for new work after 12/15/04. Tarapolsi suggested she check the Eastside Arts Coalition web site for job postings.

E. Emailed Performing Arts Committee Meeting Report

None

X. OPEN FORUM DISCUSSION

A. RAC Retreat

Waters proposed having a module retreat format, and to spend time in one module on the orientation handbook and getting up to speed. Schmidt agreed the handbook should be a retreat item. Teller thought Commissioners should answer questions defining their role, and to discuss a 3-5 year plan.

Commissioners agreed to hold a retreat on January 24, 2005, at the Senior Center, beginning with a potluck from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m., and retreat discussion from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Tarapolsi suggested only discussing the budget and handbook topics. Skillingstead recommended budget discussion at the December RAC meeting instead. Teller itemized the suggested retreat topics:

- Handbook
- New interview questions
- Orientation
- Staff function

Schmidt observed a problem with a 3-5 year plan: it is unknown who the Commissioners would be or their goals. Teller responded that the evolutionary group to come will know the direction RAC is now headed. Commissioners need to consider how to function as a Commission with status quo funding, no money, or more money five years from now. He believed RAC's focus was too narrow and consideration should be given to how RAC would evolve from now. Bettencourt noted funds are being saved up to do a cultural plan, which would outline the future goals.

Commissioners agreed on a modular format for the retreat that would include a breakout session for group discussion on topics, followed by a collective report.

Schmidt proposed the 3-5 year plan could be started at the retreat as an ongoing topic. Teller suggesting providing ten minutes of discussion on the plan at every meeting, when time is available.

Motion for approval to put the 3-5 year plan discussion on the RAC agenda at every meeting as the last item before adjournment, time permitting by:

Commissioner Waters

Second by: Commissioner Schmidt

Motion carried: 7-0 unanimous

Skillingstead will put this item on the agenda.

Waters asked Commissioners to think about retreat topics, where the areas overlap and where they are discrete. This will help identify more useful separations when Commissioners break into teams.

Schmidt noted that Pam Remboldt, Chair of Sammamish Arts Commission, has information on their successful literary reading workshop. ***Schmidt will send the information to Waters.*** Schmidt also noted that SAC obtains all funding through fund raising events, as they have no budget or staff person.

Fund raising is not clearly defined per what the City does, stated Schmidt; there is no plan to avoid overlap into the community. Bettencourt replied that the City is working on a unified guideline because it is important to many. Skillingstead and Debra Churchill, Recreation Department, will ask Microsoft regarding packaging Arts in the Parks, and possibly ROS, teen arts, etc., as one large contribution.

Teller suggested discussing fund raising events such as a carnival, street fair, or a gala event. Skillingstead proposed using the media effectively to get their story out, especially to wealthy people, letting people know what the needs are. Think in terms of that versus an event that would take resources that RAC doesn't have now. She noted VIP tickets would be issued to Commissioners for the Redmond Lights kick off special event at the Marriott; wealthy attendees will be present. Commissioners could network with these to tell their story. Do organized discussions with major programs, such as the upcoming meeting with Microsoft.

XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by: Commissioner Innes

Second by: Commissioner Tarapolsi

Motion carried: 7-0 unanimous

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

**NEXT REDMOND ARTS COMMISSION MEETING:
December 9, 2004**

**Old Redmond School House Community Center
7:00 p.m.**

Redmond Arts Commission

Meeting: November 18, 2004

Audience Present

Please note: Information provided at this public meeting becomes part of the City's permanent record.

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
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